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Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations: cooperation between the United Nations and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization

Letter dated 15 December 2016 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations and the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of Australia, Canada, Finland, Germany, Japan and the Netherlands, we have the honour to forward to you the Joint Ministerial Statement on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, which was released on 21 September 2016 in New York (see annex). It is our pleasure to inform you that, as at 8 December 2016, 86 States have associated themselves with the Joint Statement.

We would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 104 and 126 (k).

(*Signed*) Caitlin **Wilson**
Chargé d'affaires
Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Koro **Bessho**
Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 15 December 2016 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations and the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Joint Ministerial Statement on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

1. This year, as the international community marks the twentieth anniversary of the opening of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty for signature, we, the Foreign Ministers issuing this statement, stand united in our commitment to promote and pursue its entry into force without further delay.

2. We regard the Treaty as a core element of the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime and its entry into force as a major contribution to international peace and security. The total ban on any nuclear weapon test explosions, or any other nuclear explosions, established by the Treaty will contribute to a world without nuclear weapons by constraining their development and qualitative improvement.

3. We welcome the significant progress made towards the universality of the Treaty, with signature by 183 States and ratification by 166 States to date. We particularly welcome a number of positive developments since our last meeting, including: the ratification of the Treaty by Angola, Myanmar and Swaziland; the adoption of a declaration and measures to promote the entry into force of the Treaty by the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in September 2015; and the convening of the twentieth-anniversary ministerial meeting in Vienna in June 2016.

4. There is more work to be done. We urge all States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Treaty without delay, in particular the remaining eight States listed in Annex 2[1] to the Treaty. We appeal to all States to make the utmost efforts to achieve its prompt entry into force. We dedicate ourselves individually and jointly to continuing to raise awareness among the general public and to advocate at the highest political levels. We must ensure that the resolute determination of the international community to bring the Treaty into force is finally realized.

5. Pending the entry into force of the Treaty, which remains our urgent goal owing to its legally binding effect, we call upon all States to maintain all existing moratoriums on nuclear-weapon test explosions and other nuclear explosions and to refrain from any action that would undermine the Treaty's object and purpose. However, these do not have the same permanent and legally binding effect to end nuclear-weapons testing and all other nuclear explosions, which will be achieved only by the entry into force of the Treaty. We must finish the work that we started 20 years ago.

6. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is the only country that has conducted nuclear tests in this century. We condemn in the strongest terms its

[1] There are eight Annex 2 States, whose ratifications are necessary for the entry into force of the Treaty: China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Pakistan and the United States of America.

nuclear tests in 2006, 2009, 2013 and in January and September of 2016 and demand that it refrain from conducting further nuclear tests. We urge the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to fully comply with all relevant Security Council resolutions and all its commitments under the Joint Statement of the Fourth Round of the Six-Party Talks to abandon all its nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programmes and immediately cease all related activities. We continue to underline the need for a peaceful solution of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea nuclear issue.

7. We welcome advances made by the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and its provisional technical secretariat in ensuring that the Treaty's verification regime is robust and world-class. Today, the International Monitoring System is nearing completion and, in addition to advancing the Treaty's primary nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament objective, it plays an important role in scientific and civilian applications, including providing accurate, timely data about earthquakes, tsunamis and nuclear accidents. We promote scientific cooperation between States in support of the verification regime, and we reaffirm our commitment to support the effective and efficient completion and maintenance of all its elements and related capacity-building activities. We urge all States signatories to support these efforts and to bring about the Treaty's entry into force.

Attachment

States signatories associating themselves with the Joint Ministerial Statement

1. Afghanistan
2. Albania
3. Andorra
4. Angola
5. Argentina
6. Armenia
7. Australia
8. Austria
9. Azerbaijan
10. Bahrain
11. Belarus
12. Belgium
13. Bosnia and Herzegovina
14. Bulgaria
15. Burkina Faso
16. Cambodia
17. Canada
18. Chile
19. China
20. Costa Rica
21. Côte d'Ivoire
22. Croatia
23. Cyprus
24. Czechia
25. Democratic Republic of the Congo
26. Denmark
27. Estonia
28. Finland
29. France
30. Georgia
31. Germany
32. Greece
33. Holy See
34. Hungary
35. Iceland
36. Iraq
37. Ireland
38. Italy
39. Japan
40. Jordan
41. Kazakhstan
42. Kenya
43. Kuwait
44. Latvia
45. Liechtenstein
46. Lithuania
47. Luxembourg
48. Madagascar
49. Malaysia
50. Malta
51. Monaco
52. Mongolia
53. Montenegro
54. Myanmar
55. Namibia
56. Netherlands
57. New Zealand
58. Nicaragua
59. Nigeria
60. Norway
61. Panama
62. Paraguay
63. Philippines
64. Poland
65. Portugal
66. Republic of Korea
67. Republic of Moldova
68. Romania
69. Russian Federation
70. San Marino
71. Serbia
72. Singapore
73. Slovakia
74. Slovenia
75. Spain
76. Swaziland
77. Sweden
78. Switzerland
79. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
80. Turkey
81. Ukraine
82. United Arab Emirates
83. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
84. United States of America
85. Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
86. Viet Nam